

Amendments to the Specifications:

Please replace paragraph on page 3, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

A conical shaped restricting device 30 is mounted about the discharge end 14A of the stuffing tube 14. Conical shaped restrictor 30 an exterior side wall that extends from a smaller diameter end adjacent the discharge end 14A of the stuffing tube 14 to a larger diameter end to decrease the diameter of the natural casing 26 as it is being slidably moved towards the discharge end 14A of the stuffing tube 14 and through twisting mechanism 16. Restrictor 30 may be adapted to rotate about discharge end 14A as follower 24 pushes the natural casing 32 towards the twisting mechanism 16.